

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 03896 102103Z

64

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 AGR-05 IO-13 AF-08 EA-07 EUR-12

L-03 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00

SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 PA-01

PRS-01 /124 W

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R 102028Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4729

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 3896

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PN

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PAGE 02 SAN JO 03896 102103Z

SUBJECT: GEPLACEA SUGAR MEETING IN PANAMA

REF: STATE 175782

1. ARTURO GARCIA GOLCHER, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE LIGA AGRICOLA INDUSTRIAL DE LA CANA DE AZUCAR (SUGAR LEAGUE), STATED IN A RECENT MEETING WITH EMBOFFS THAT IN THE MEETING IN EARLY JULY IN PANAMA OF THE GROUP OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN SUGAR EXPORTING COUNTRIES (GEPLACEA), COSTA RICA AHD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINED THE ORGANIZATION. MR. GARCIA, ONE OF COSTA RICA'S DELEGATE TO THE MEETING, EXPLAINED THAT COSTA RICA, WITH STRONG SUPPORT FROM BRAZIL, ARGENTINA, AND THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, AND WITH MILD SUPPORT FROM PERU, HAD SPOKEN IN DIRECT OPPOSITION TO THE MEXICAN AND CUBAN IDEA OF FORMING A SUGAR CARTEL. AS A RESULT, HE EXPECTS THAT COSTA RICA, AND THE COUNTRIES THAT SUPPORT ITS POINT OF VIEW, WILL BOYCOTT THE NEXT GEPLACEA MEETING SCHEDULED FOR HAVANAIN MARCH OF 1977. A SUCCESSFUL BOYCOTT WOULD LEAD, IN GARCIA'S OPINION, TO A DISSOLUTION OF GEPLACEA AND WOULD INCREASE THE POSSIBILITIES OF CONCLUDING A NEW INTERNATIONAL SUGAR AGREEMENT IN GENEVA IN APRIL OF NEXT YEAR.

2. COMMENT: MR. GARCIA ALSO COMPLAINED BITTERLY ABOUT A PROBLEM HE WAS HAVING WITH MS. DINA DELALLE, COSTA RICA'S SUGAR LOBBYIST, AT ANOTHER SUGAR FORUM, THE INTERNATIONAL SUGAR ORGANIZATION IN LONDON. THE PROBLEM APPEARS TO REVOLVE AROUND WHETHER MS. DELALLE OR MR. GARCIA IS COSTA RICA'S REPRESENTATIVE BEFORE THE ISO. EMBOFFS BELIEVE THAT GARCIA'S REMARKS ON THE PROBABLE BREAKDOWN OF GEPLACEA, THANKS TO HIS EFFORTS, WERE MADE IN THE HOPE THAT THE U.S. DESIRED SUCH AN OUTCOME AND, IN GRATITUDE, WOULD SUPPORT HIM IN SOME WAY IN HIS STRUGGLE WITH MS. DELALLE.

3. DESPITE HIS POSSIBLE ULTERIOR MOTIVE, MR. GARCIA'S COMMENTS ON COSTA RICA'S POSITION IN THE CLOSED SESSIONS OF GEPLACEA, AND ON THE PROBABLE OUTCOME AT THE MARCH MEETING IN HAVANA, MERIT ATTENTION. TO THE EXTENT THAT THE BOYCOTT SUCCEEDS AND GEPLACEA IS WEAKENED, THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 SAN JO 03896 102103Z

UNITED STATES WOULD BE IN A MORE FAVORABLE POSITION IN THE SUGAR AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA.

4. FINALLY, AND AS A FOOTNOTE, GARCIA SAID THAT THE HEAD OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S DELEGATION HAD SENT HIM A LETTER PRAISING THE POSITION TAKEN BY COSTA RICA AT THE PANAMA MEETING.

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